



June 19, 2023

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Business, Professions,
and Economic Development
1021 O Street, Room 3320
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis) – Support
As Amended May 3, 2023**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we support Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis), which enhances local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities.

A commonality amongst local jurisdictions that have sanctioned commercial cannabis activities or restrict such operations is the overwhelming enforcement needs to combat unlicensed cannabis activities. Local law enforcement agencies and code enforcement struggle to effectively deter illicit cannabis operators who sidestep regulations and undermine the health and safety of residents and our regulated cannabis businesses. Enhanced tools at the local level are needed to combat this highly lucrative and harmful unlawful activity.

AB 1448 would provide effectual tools at the local level to act against persons that have aided and abetted unlicensed cannabis activity by allowing 1) local jurisdictions to set up penalty processes and issue administrative fines; 2) streamlining appeals and judicial review; and 3) facilitating collection of final penalties through lien mechanisms.

AB 1448 also incentivizes local jurisdictions to use the statutory penalties for unlicensed cannabis activities by revising Business and Professions Code 26038 to authorize the recovery of penalties through local administrative processes. In addition, AB 1448 allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA). Revenues from these actions will provide a much-needed source of funds to reinvest in illicit cannabis enforcement.

The Honorable Richard Roth
Assembly Bill 1448
June 19, 2023
Page 2


Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

For the above reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1448 and urge your “Aye” vote when this measure is heard before your committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Dukett (RCRC) at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, or Ben Triffo (Cal Cities) at btriffo@calcities.org.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate
RCRC



ADA WAELDER
Legislative Advocate
CSAC



BEN TRIFFO
Legislative Representative
Cal Cities

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis, Member of the California State Assembly
Members of the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development
Committee
Sarah Mason, Chief Consultant, Senate Business, Professions, and Economic
Development Committee
Kayla Williams, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus